

# THE ADVISOR

A Publication of the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board

Spring 1998

## Kaiser-Hill Earns 82% of Available Incentives for 1997 Cleanup Work

Prior to the start of each fiscal year, the Department of Energy (DOE) and its contractor, Kaiser-Hill, negotiate performance measures and associated incentive fees for the upcoming year. With most of the reporting and evaluation completed, Kaiser-Hill has received just over \$20 million in incentive fees out of a possible \$24.6 million for cleanup work completed during Fiscal Year (FY) 1997. This represents about 82% of the available fee. In comparison, Kaiser-Hill earned about 72% of the incentive fees for the work it completed during FY96. Additionally, there are still some performance measures open for which Kaiser-Hill could earn fees for FY97.

According to DOE's manager at Rocky Flats, Jessie Roberson, "While significant progress was made in 1997, we're looking to accomplish even more next year. Successful completion of these performance measures helps bring the site closer to the goal of accelerated closure in a safe, secure and efficient manner."

Under Kaiser-Hill's contract with DOE, the company is reimbursed for the costs it incurs as a result of doing the work at the site. Additionally, it negotiates with DOE an amount of money that is available as profit. Fifteen percent of this pool is guaranteed, providing that Kaiser-Hill demonstrates an acceptable level of performance. Only the successful completion of an annual set of performance measures entitles Kaiser-Hill to the other 85% of available fees.

FY97 performance measures included both *standard* and *superstretch* measures. Standard measures are those which DOE expects Kaiser-Hill to complete under the existing closure plan. Superstretch measures are used to encourage Kaiser-Hill to go beyond the current baseline plans and accelerate completion of work not scheduled or funded in the current fiscal year. Kaiser-Hill earned 84% of the

### In FY97, Kaiser-Hill earned 100% of available incentive fees for:

- Shipment of low-level mixed waste (saltcrete and pondcrete)
- Waste minimization and pollution prevention
- Pre-certification of WIPP waste
- Waste consolidation and evacuation in the protected area
- Deactivation work in Building 779 and the 771 and 886 clusters
- Environmental remediation (Mound and T1)
- Building 771 nuclear holdup measurements
- Small/disadvantaged business subcontracting
- Comprehensive performance (schedule and cost)
- Life-cycle baseline development
- Additional demolition activities (SS)
- Removal of Building 776/777 pencil tanks (SS)
- Life-cycle baseline revisions (SS)
- Removal of nuclear materials - Bldg. 776/777 (SS)
- Material disposition from environmental restoration at Mound and T3/T4 (SS)
- Automation of security posts/access control systems (SS)
- Building 444 deactivation (SS)
- Additional low level waste shipments (SS)

(SS=superstretch)

(continued on page 5)

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# Rocky Flats Updates



## 2006 Plan Update

The process of developing an accelerated closure plan for Rocky Flats and other Department of Energy nuclear sites continues. A Discussion Draft of the national 2006 Plan was released in June 1997. In December, Rocky Flats submitted a slightly modified version of its plan to DOE-Headquarters in Washington, D.C (available on the Rocky Flats web page - [www.rfets.gov](http://www.rfets.gov)). Headquarters is currently in the process of synthesizing the individual site plans into an overall national Draft 2006 Plan.

The release of this version is scheduled for early March. The plan will be available on the DOE web page at [www.em.doe.gov/acc2006](http://www.em.doe.gov/acc2006). A 45-day public comment period will commence upon the release of the plan, followed by the development of the Final 2006 plan. A Preliminary Response to Comment document was prepared that addresses public comments on the Discussion Draft and is currently available in Rocky Flats Reading Rooms.

Rocky Flats' plan now contains only one scenario, in contrast to earlier versions which offered a number of different cases. Only one substantive change was made in this submittal. Whereas the June version identified nine buildings that would not be decommissioned under the plan because of potential community reuse, the December plan includes the D&D costs for these buildings. Other than this change and some substantial formatting changes, the document remains the same as the June discussion draft.

## Environmental Monitoring

Over the past year, *The Advisor* has reported on the progress of the evaluation commissioned by the Citizens Advisory Board to look at the environmental monitoring at Rocky Flats. This evaluation, entitled *An Analysis of Environmental Monitoring at and around the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site*, is now available for review on CAB's web page ([www.rfcab.org](http://www.rfcab.org)). A limited number of paper copies are available and may be obtained by contacting the CAB office. Work on a companion report, *A Citizens Guide to Environmental Monitoring at Rocky Flats*, has been delayed.

Currently, CAB is reviewing the evaluation and is engaged in discussions with the Rocky Flats contractors responsible for the environmental monitoring programs, as well as representatives from the local city governments, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the Environmental Protection Agency. These groups have reviewed the evaluation and have offered comments to CAB. By March of this year, CAB hopes to develop a set of recommendations, based on the evaluation and the discussions with the site and the regulators, for changes to the current environmental monitoring program.

One important area that has already been identified is the need to improve the way in which environmental monitoring information and results are shared with the public. CAB hopes to work collaboratively with the site and the regulators on new ways to provide this information, and thus has delayed the publication of the *Citizens Guide* until these changes can be made. If you have additional questions about the project, please contact Ken Korkia at the CAB office.

## CDPHE Assigns New CAB Ex-Officio Representative

Steve Gunderson recently took over as the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's ex-officio (non-voting) member on the CAB. Steve is a native of Iowa and has been a resident of Colorado since 1981. He has a Bachelor of Arts in geology from Augustana College in Illinois. He also has a Master of Science degree in geology from the University of California, Berkeley. Steve worked as a corporate officer in a small Denver-based petroleum exploration and production company prior to joining the state Department of Health as a geologist in 1989.

In 1992, Steve was assigned responsibility for creation of the Emergency Management Program (EMP) within the health department. EMP responsibilities included offsite emergency planning related to Rocky Flats; emergency planning and preparedness activities in Colorado relative to DOE radioactive waste shipments, including those destined for WIPP; and coordinating department activities relative to hazardous materials spills, public health emergency, and natural disasters.

As EMP director, Steve was co-chair of the Colorado Emergency Planning Commission, chaired the Governor's Interagency Advisory Group on Hazardous Materials, and was a member of DOE's national Transportation External Coordination Working Group.

Steve became the State Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement Project Manager in January 1998, at which time he was appointed as the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's ex-officio representative on CAB. CAB's other ex-officio representatives are Tim Rehder from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Joe Legare from the U.S. Department of Energy-Rocky Flats.

# Review of Soil Action Levels is Now Underway

In October 1996, DOE, the State of Colorado and the Environmental Protection Agency established numerical guidelines for the cleanup of contaminated soil at Rocky Flats. These guidelines, or Soil Action Levels, provide limits for determining when action must be taken to remove, treat, or otherwise contain soil which is contaminated with plutonium and other radioactive materials. Almost immediately after these Soil Action Levels were established, members of the community became concerned because the numbers were much higher than expected, and based on additional review, were higher than the cleanup levels established for radioactively contaminated soil cleanups in other parts of the world.

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board, in a 1996 recommendation, asked that DOE conduct an independent assessment of the Soil Action Levels. Joining in this request were the cities of Broomfield and Westminster, and the office of Congressman David Skaggs. In November 1996, the Department of Energy agreed to conduct such an assessment. Shortly thereafter, representatives from CAB, the local governments, and other interested citizens started meeting to discuss how such a study might be conducted.

The end result of this discussion was the creation of a community oversight panel which will solicit and watch over the work of an independent contractor who will actually perform the assessment. The study's scope of work asks that the contractor review the methodology used to determine the Soil Action Levels for Rocky Flats, comparing it to what has been done at other sites and examining alternative means for making the determination. Thirteen individuals will sit on the oversight panel. They include representatives from six local



*Oversight panel members Bob Kanick, Tom Davidson, Joe Goldfield, facilitator Laura Till and LeRoy Moore.*

governments, two from public interest groups, three technical/scientific experts, and two citizen members.

During the next two months, the oversight panel will finalize the scope of work and hire the contractor who will perform the evaluation. At this time, the panel would like to complete work on the evaluation in less than a year, so that the results can be made available for critical soil cleanup projects slated to begin before the year 2000.

Although CAB is not officially represented on the oversight panel, several of its members will participate. *The Advisor* will continue to provide updates on the progress of the Soil Action Level review during the coming year. All of the panel's business meetings are open and several public work sessions will be scheduled. If you need further information about the panel or for a schedule of meetings, please contact the CAB office.



We would like to answer your questions about Rocky Flats in our next newsletter. If anything you read in this issue brought up questions for you, or you have been wondering about anything related to Rocky Flats, just ask us to find an answer for you. Please send, call in, fax or e-mail your questions to us by April 17 and we will try to answer them in our next issue.

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# First Annual State of the Flats Meeting: 1997 in Review and a Look Ahead to 1998

The first annual State of the Flats meeting, held on January 28, was an opportunity for representatives from Rocky Flats to present a summary of the site's cleanup accomplishments from 1997 and to share some information about what is planned for 1998. The meeting was very well-attended, with over 100 people filling a conference room at the Arvada Center for Arts and Humanities.

The Department of Energy (DOE) manager at Rocky Flats, Jessie Roberson, opened the meeting with some brief remarks. She stated that much has been accomplished during the last year but that many areas also need improvement. Kaiser-Hill President Bob Card then presented the Kaiser-Hill team's accomplishments, challenges and path forward. He spoke about accomplishments in the areas of safety, environmental stewardship, safeguards and security, cost effectiveness and budget, planning and closure progress.

Paul Golan of DOE presented more information about the critical path to closure and the tools DOE uses to ensure that its contractors accomplish the most important activities. During the next few years, the most important critical path activity is going to be residue processing. This is followed on the critical path by shipment of special nuclear material during Fiscal Years (FY) 2002-2004, closure of Building 371 (FY04-07), closure of Building 776/777 (FY07-09), and construction of closure caps (FY09-10).



*DOE's Paul Golan discussed the critical path to site closure.*

Golan then identified the focus activities for fiscal year 1998 performance measures (see related story on page 5) and described improvements DOE has made to the performance measures system, including gateway performance measures, superstretch performance measures, fee distribution, cost restrictions and the safety and comprehensive performance measures. Key activities for 1998 include draining and removal of all liquids from Building 771; processing of all high concentration plutonium solutions; stabilization of significant amounts of different types of residues; remediation of Trench T1; shipment of all plutonium pits; shipment of 7,000 cubic meters of transuranic waste, low level and low level mixed waste; and safety and schedule improvements.

Steve Gunderson from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Max Dodson from the Environmental Protection Agency and Bob Warther from the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board presented their agencies' assessments of the state of Rocky Flats from the regulator perspective. Each pointed to several positive accomplishments as well as areas for improvement. To close the meeting, attendees were presented with a list of key activities for 1998 and given an opportunity to offer suggestions for how they would like to be involved.

In conjunction with this meeting, DOE and Kaiser-Hill prepared a 12-page document entitled *State of the Flats: Rocky Flats Annual Report of Progress Toward Site Closure*. Please contact the CAB office at (303) 420-7855 if you would like a copy of this document or more information about anything discussed at the meeting.



*Over a hundred people gathered to hear and ask questions about the state of Rocky Flats. (pictured speaking: Carol Barker, local citizen and Rocky Flats retiree)*

## ***FY97 Performance Measures and Milestones (continued from Page 1)***

available fees for standard measures (\$17.1 million of an available \$20.4 million) and about 72% (\$3 million of an available \$4.2 million) for their work in the superstretch category.

### **For More Information...**

DOE hosted a public meeting at the end of January to present the site's accomplishments during 1997. A written report - *State of the Flats: Rocky Flats Annual Report of Progress Toward Site Closure* - was prepared prior to the meeting that provides some background information, an analysis of the performance during 1997, lessons learned and a preview of 1998. This document is available from the DOE Communications office at (303) 966-5993.

Also, CAB's Site Wide Issues/Budget Focus Group is already involved in monitoring fiscal year 1998 performance measures (see box below). If you are interested in participating on this focus group, please call the CAB office at (303) 420-7855.

*(Please see page 4 for more information about the State of the Flats meeting.)*

### **Fiscal Year 1998 Performance Measures**

- Draining and processing of SNM liquids
- Residue stabilization
- Safeguards improvements/holdup measurements
- Waste chemical disposition
- Building 771 deactivation activities
- Building 779 decommissioning activities (removing gloveboxes)
- Remediation of Trench T-1 / disposal of soil
- Special nuclear material shipments (all plutonium pits / some enriched uranium parts)
- Low level and transuranic waste shipments
- Building 440 upgrades (TRU drum repack module)
- Improvement of safety performance index
- Comprehensive performance (20% cost and 0% schedule variances/90% completion of milestones)
- Small/disadvantaged business subcontracting

### **Other Activities for which Kaiser-Hill Earned Most of the Available Fee:**

- Building 371 liquid stabilization
- Preparation of Building 707 for installation of plutonium packaging system
- Residue treatment
- SNM shipment
- Chemical disposition
- Waste safeguards termination
- Consolidation of classified material (SS)
- Disposition of excess property items (SS)

*(SS=superstretch)*

### **Rocky Flats Meets Regulatory Milestones and Target Activities**

In July 1996, the Department of Energy, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the Environmental Protection Agency signed the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement. As part of this legally-binding agreement, the agencies annually negotiate a set of cleanup activities that need to be completed during the fiscal year. Additionally, the agencies agree to a set of target activities for work involving radioactive materials, which is exempted from outside regulation. Rocky Flats accomplished all Fiscal Year 1997 milestones and target activities.

#### **Milestones**

- Modify and operate Building 440 for storage of wastes
- Shipment of pondcrete/saltcrete
- Shipment of low level waste
- Removal of containerized wastes from the protected area
- Certification of transuranic waste drums for WIPP
- Submit final draft Operable Unit 3 Record of Decision
- Characterization and project planning for Trench T-1
- Complete source removal and soil treatment at Mound

#### **Target Activities**

- Identify corrective actions for the plutonium and highly enriched uranium vulnerabilities
- Complete pipe component development for residue packing
- Install and operate enriched uranium decon system
- Thermally stabilize 90% of the plutonium oxide generated during the year
- Complete 25 special nuclear material shipments

# Site-Specific Advisory Boards A R O U N D THE DOE WEAPONS COMPLEX

## This Issue: INEEL Citizens Advisory Board

*The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board is one of several Site-Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs) that have been formed at former nuclear weapons production sites. In each issue of The Advisor, we spotlight the activities of one of these boards.*



*INEEL CAB members on a tour of the site.*

**A**long with other Site Specific Advisory Boards across the nation's nuclear weapons complex, the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory's (INEEL) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) was formed in late 1993. Currently there are 15 CAB members and three ex-officio members. The group is staffed by Jason Associates of Idaho Falls.

The Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory is a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) laboratory located on 890 square miles of the eastern Snake River plain in southeastern Idaho. The site is located west of the Snake River, south and east of the Bitterroot, Lemhi, and Lost River mountain ranges, and west of the City of

Idaho Falls.

Approximately 120,000 people live within a 50-mile radius of the site. INEEL employs approximately 9,000 workers.

The Board has issued nearly 30 recommendations since its inception. These recommendations address a variety of topics

including: waste stream issues and programs; management of spent nuclear fuel; the DOE budget and fiscal prioritization process; integrating activities and cleanup of sites; the remedial investigation and feasibility study process at the Idaho Chemical Processing Plant; land use at the site; and groundwater contamination at Test Area North. The INEEL CAB consistently advocates several positions regarding operations at the site. It regularly supports protection of the Snake River Plain Aquifer and full compliance with regulatory requirements and the Idaho Settlement Agreement. Also, the Board feels that INEEL is a national resource that can contribute to solving national problems.

One issue the Board monitors closely is activities related to Pit 9, which is part of an 88-acre INEEL waste burial site where radioactive waste, chemicals and contaminated metals were buried prior to 1970. A November 1997 recommendation by the Board requests that DOE provide Idaho residents with a status report on the project. The Board also asked DOE to clarify other alternatives for cleaning up the pit.

INEEL is one of four DOE sites named in a recent environmental study as a possible location for facilities to manufacture mixed-oxide (MOX) reactor fuel, which can be burned in commercial reactors to produce electricity. In November, CAB members issued a statement of concern about this possible project. The Board's concerns about siting MOX fabrication facilities at INEEL include the possible generation of additional radioactive wastes during fabrication; safety and security issues associated with transportation, handling and storage of plutonium; and costs associated with fuel fabrication.

*(Copies of recommendations, Board meeting minutes, and other general information about the INEEL CAB can be obtained at the Board's web site: [www.ida.net/users/cab](http://www.ida.net/users/cab))*

## Looking for More Information? Want to Share Your Opinions? Here's How.....



### Web Site or E-Mail

[www.rfcab.org](http://www.rfcab.org)  
or  
[rfcab@indra.com](mailto:rfcab@indra.com)

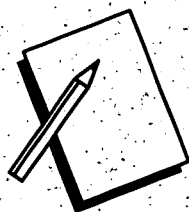
Our website contains Board recommendations, meeting minutes, newsletter articles, Rocky Flats information and more. You may also send us e-mail.



### Public Comment Message Line

**(303) 637-4808**

Call 24 hours a day to record your opinions, comments, or suggestions on Rocky Flats or CAB activities. All comments will be reviewed by the Board.



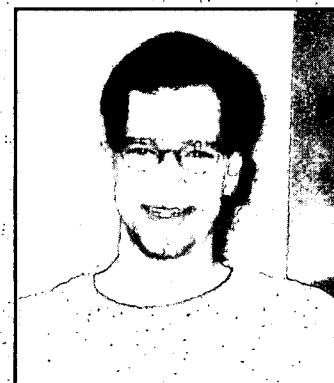
### Letters to the Editor / Q&A

RFCAB  
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Westminster, CO 80021

Send us a letter expressing your opinion or asking a question on a Rocky Flats issue and we will print as many as possible in each issue.

## CAB Adds a New Face to its Staff

Starting in February, Brady Wilson took over the job of CAB's Technical Program Specialist. Brady is a recent graduate of the University of Northern Colorado, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biological Sciences, emphasis in Field Biology. His undergraduate research project involved surveying Bald Eagles wintering along the South Platte River. Brady also did a research internship at the Denver Botanical Gardens.



*New CAB staff member Brady Wilson.*

Brady joins three other CAB staff members - Ken Korkia, Board/Staff Coordinator; Erin Rogers, Program Coordinator; and Deb Thompson, Office Manager. The staff can be reached at the CAB office at (303) 420-7855.

*The Advisor* is published quarterly by the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board (CAB). The Executive Editor is Tom Marshall. Please send your questions, suggestions and ideas to:

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Except as noted, all articles are written by CAB staff: Ken Korkia, Erin Rogers and Deb Thompson. To request a change of address or to add or remove your name from the mailing list, contact Deb Thompson at the above address and phone number. Material may be reprinted if credit is given. CAB is funded under a 1997 grant of approximately \$237,000 sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy.

## CAB MISSION STATEMENT

*The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board, a nonpartisan, broadly representative, independent advisory board with concerns related to Rocky Flats activities, is dedicated to providing informed recommendations and advice to the agencies (Department of Energy, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Environmental Protection Agency), government entities and other interested parties on policy and technical issues and decisions related to cleanup, waste management and associated activities. The Board is dedicated to public involvement, awareness and education on Rocky Flats issues.*

## ***Rocky Flats Public Meeting Calendar***

### ***March***

5	<b><i>Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Meeting</i></b>	6 - 9:30 p.m.	Westminster City Hall
9	<b><i>CAB Site Wide Issues / Budget Focus Group</i></b>	7 - 9 p.m.	Westminster City Hall
16	<b><i>CAB D&amp;D / Closure Plan Focus Group</i></b>	6 - 8 p.m.	Westminster City Hall
17	<b><i>CAB Plutonium Issues Focus Group</i></b>	7 - 9 p.m.	Westminster City Hall
26	<b><i>RFLII Board Meeting</i></b>	2 - 4 p.m.	RFLII office

### ***April***

2	<b><i>Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Meeting</i></b>	6 - 9:30 p.m.	Westminster City Hall
6	<b><i>CAB Site Wide Issues / Budget Focus Group</i></b>	7 - 9 p.m.	Westminster City Hall
20	<b><i>CAB D&amp;D / Closure Plan Focus Group</i></b>	6 - 8 p.m.	Westminster City Hall
21	<b><i>CAB Plutonium Issues Focus Group</i></b>	7 - 9 p.m.	Westminster City Hall

### ***May***

7	<b><i>Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Meeting</i></b>	6 - 9:30 p.m.	Westminster City Hall
11	<b><i>CAB Site Wide Issues / Budget Focus Group</i></b>	7 - 9 p.m.	Westminster City Hall
18	<b><i>CAB D&amp;D / Closure Plan Focus Group</i></b>	6 - 8 p.m.	Westminster City Hall
19	<b><i>CAB Plutonium Issues Focus Group</i></b>	7 - 9 p.m.	Westminster City Hall

ALL MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, PLEASE CALL BEFORE YOU GO -- (303) 420-7855

**RFLII office: 5460 Ward Road, Suite 205, Arvada**  
**Westminster City Hall: 4800 West 92nd Avenue, Westminster**

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